

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, the drawings are amended and claims 1-3 and 7-9 are amended. In addition, new claims 13-15 are added to secure an appropriate scope of protection to which Applicants are believed entitled. Support for added claims 13, 14 is provided by claims 2 and 8, respectively, and support for new claim 15 is found in at least original claims 1, 2, and Fig. 1. Accordingly, claims 1-15 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3-6 and 9-12 contain allowable subject matter. Notwithstanding the indication of allowable subject matter, all claims are believed patentable for the reasons below.

Drawings

The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) objects to Fig. 2 based upon informalities. Fig. 2 is amended to obviate the objection. Specifically, Fig. 2 is amended to replace reference number "116c" with "116b," as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Claim Informalities

The Examiner objects to claims 1-12 because of informalities. Applicants amend claims 1 and 7 to replace the word "objective" with "object" as indicated in the Office Action. In addition, the phrase "from transferred," in claim 7 is amended to recite "from being transferred," to obviate the objection thereto. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1-12 is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-2 and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Allen (US 5,725,150). By this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 are amended to only make explicit that which was implicitly recited in the original claims and are believed to be patentable over Allen for the reasons discussed below.

As amended, independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a switching device including “a slider which is selectively slidable between first and second positions and has an inlet port in fluidic communication with the coating material source and an outlet port fluidly communicated with the spray,” (emphasis added). Allan does not disclose, teach or suggest the slider, as recited in claim 1.

Allen appears to only disclose a rotary valve VBVA that is rotated to alter the configuration of the connections between subsystems, (see Fig. 1 and column 5, lines 5-7 and 15-17). Nowhere does Allen disclose, teach or suggest a slidable switch, as recited in claim 1.

A rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §102 requires every element of the claim to be included in the reference, either directly or inherently. Accordingly, because Allen does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every feature, i.e., a slider, as recited in amended claim 1, Applicants recited feature is distinguished over Allen and therefore the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is improper. Amended independent claim 7 similarly recites a slideable slider switch and is likewise patentable over Allen.

Claims 2 and 8 depend from independent claims 1 and 7, respectively and are likewise patentable over Allen at least for their dependence on an allowable base claim, as well as for additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection over Allen is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims 13 and 14 depend from allowable claims 3 and 9, recite the features of claims 2 and 8, respectively, and are patentable at least for their dependence on allowable claims 3 and 9.

New independent claim 15 is based upon claim 1 and further recites wherein the reservoir includes a cylinder and a double headed piston slidable within the cylinder so that the inner wall of the cylinder, wherein ends of the double headed piston defines first and second chambers in the cylinder, "communication with the cylinder consisting of a first port providing access to/from the first chamber at one end of the cylinder and a second port providing access to/from the second chamber at the other end of the cylinder," (emphasis added). In other words, the claimed cylinder has no other ports. This lack of any other ports is supported by at least Figs. 1-8 and the accompanying specification that describes wherein the operation of the piston and fluidic flow is accomplished by pumps 18 and 24 disposed at the inlet and outlet, respectively, of voltage block 26 (see Fig. 1). The claimed voltage block device is distinguished from Allen, which discloses wherein double piston cylinder DPA includes inlet and outlet air ports 26 and 36 for communicating with a pneumatic sensor 40.

Conclusion

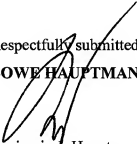
All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN HAM & BERNER, LLP


Benjamin J. Hauptman
Registration No. 29,310

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
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BJH:ERM/tal